Progress of the Negro-1935

Elizabethton, Tenn., Star
March 12, 1935

Q. Are Negroes making more rapid progress now than they were shortly after they were freed? W. R. R.

A. According to the Negro Year Book, within the last 20 years the Negro has made more strides forward than in the previous 50 years. There are 250 periodicals published by or for Negroes; 51 Negro banks with resources of over $20,000,000 and volume of business more than $75,000,000; more than 70,000 Negroes engaged in their own business; 1,000,000 farms operated by Negroes; 750,000 homes owned; accumulated wealth estimated at $2,600,000,000.

DALLAS, TEX.
NEWS
OCT 1 1935

Negroes' Economic, Social Status Keep Pace With City Development

Proud Progress Record Boasted by Race During 50 Years' Growth

Next to the white man, the largest racial subdivision in Dallas since the Indian withdrew has been furnished by the Negro. The progress and achievement of this element has been most marked during the fifty years in which The News has been published in Dallas.

The negro community, numbering some 40,000 men, women and children, occupies today a basic position in the life of Dallas and is rightly considered one of the outstanding units in the larger negro communities of the Nation. An outstanding feature of the local situation has been the increasing good will and co-operative understanding between the white and black races.

Although fiction writers, local color enthusiasts and many tourists long have been attracted by the picturesque aspects of negro life in Dallas, finding humor and rich human nature on Deep Ellum, Central avenue and other well-known haunts of the Negro, there has been a deepening appreciation in recent years of the economic and social progress of a race which has had such an important part in Southern life.

Record of Progress.

The Negro in Dallas today has a record of progress to be proud of—one that includes advancement in general economic status, in education, religion, business and in the whole art of living. That, generally speaking, he has accomplished this with the cooperation of the more powerful economic group, rather than in opposition, redounds to the credit of both races.

Significantly, the first Negro in Dallas County was a farmer, a slave by the name of Al, brought by the Huitt family, who aided his master in raising a crop of several acres of corn on a prairie near Carrollton in the spring of 1843. The buffaloes, however, came and ate up this crop before it could be harvested.

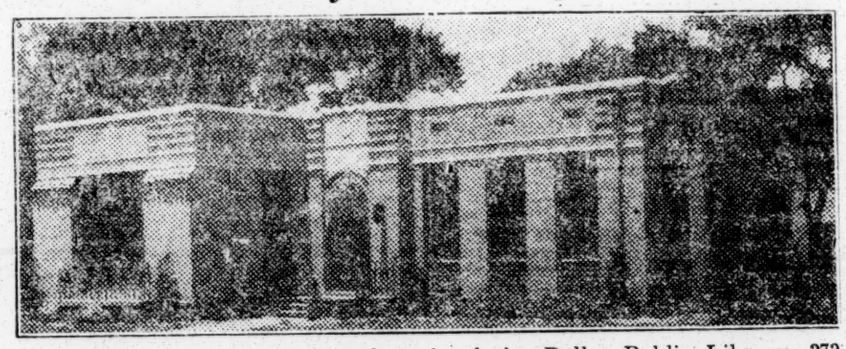
A number of other slaves were brought to Dallas County before the Civil War, the largest slave owner being Obadiah Knight, who had twenty-five. On the freeing of the slaves in Texas on June 19, 1865, the several hundred members of the race remained in the community. Their own civic life began with the start about that time of Freedmantown and Stringtown, two settlements then on the outskirts of the town in the vicinity of the present chief negro community around Hall, State and Thomas avenue.

When The News began publication here in 1885 the Negro still was almost exclusively a hewer of wood and drawer of water. His chief diversion center was on Central avenue and the files of The News disclose social conditions among the Negroes which would no longer be tolerated by the race itself.

Taking advantage of the educational and other opportunities offered by the dominant white race, as well as by his own efforts, the Negro in Dallas has materially bettered his status during the half century, so today he can point with pride to marked civic advancement, with his own doctors, nurses, lawyers, ministers, teachers, businessmen, civic leaders and correspondingly important institutions.

The larger part of the negro population, however, still is engaged in domestic service in homes, hotels and clubs of the city. This close and integral work-a-day relation, in addition to higher considerations, has led leaders in the dominant race to insist more and more that housing, sanitary health and other conditions among Negroes be improved. This is true even though social surveys continue to reveal that much more should be done by public, tax-supported author-

Branch Library Aids Negro Progress



The Paul Laurence Dunbar branch of the Dallas Public Library, 272 Thomas, brings reading and research facilities to the city's negro citizens.

ities to safeguard the health and social security of the whole community

Schools and Hospitals.

Chief among the public agencies evolved for the benefit of the Negro in Dallas are the schools maintained for them in their own neighborhoods. The Booker T. Washington High School is the keystone of this system, although it is greatly overcrowded. There are seven important ward schools in as many localities. The city also has two negro public health nurses, who have proved the value of this service in reducing infant mortality and in checking incipient disease.

The public hospital system provides separate quarters for tubercular patients at Woodlawn Hospital and plans for Parkland Hospital include better facilities for the negro patient. The public library system has been expanded in recent years to provide the Dunbar Colored Branch on Thomas avenue. The Negro relief work carried on during the depression, staffed by negro social workers, has commanded Nation-wide attention for the efficiency and success with which it has been conducted. The negro press in Dallas has had an important part, including the pioneer Dallas Express, the Dallas Gazette and the more recent Dallas edition of The Informer.

Dallas Negroes take special pride in their Moorland branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, a modern $150,000 building dedicated in 1930. Negroes contributed $50,000 of this sum. The rest was given by white friends, including the Julius Rosenwald fund. The Young Women's Christian Association in 1927 also opened its Maria Morgan branch which has since occupied an important part in the life of the negro community.

The negro chamber of commerce dates from 1926, when it was organized by E. J. Crawford and others. A. Maceo Smith is executive secretary. Dr. R. T. Hamilton, long an outstanding leader and spokesman of his race, has served as head of this organization. The medical, dental and pharmaceutical association serving the negro race in Dallas County dates from 1906. Dr. W. K. Flowers is president. The oldest physician is Dr. J. W. Anderson. The patriarch of the local negro ministry is the Rev. A. S. Jackson of the New Hope Baptist Church, now retired.

Negro Farmers.

The county and the Texas A. & M. extension service have helped Dallas County negro farmers to realize a more scientific agriculture in recent years. C. A. Walton is farm demonstration agent assigned to this work.

Negro women have also done their part toward an improved civic life, their federation of clubs, parent-teacher associations, church societies and other agencies all contributing. The Community Chest maintains an infant's welfare station in the negro community which commands widespread support.

Dallas Negroes have offered full cooperation to officials of the Texas Centennial who, in 1936 at the central exposition in Dallas, will offer an exhibit of negro progress, the first demonstration of its kind at any world's fair. Federal funds were provided at Washington toward such an exhibit and negro building.

Progress of the Negro-1935

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
January 9, 1935

MRS. M. C. QUILLIAN SPEAKS ON NEGRO CULTURE IN SOUTH

Mrs. Marvin C. Quillian addressed the members of the Macon branch of the American Association of University Women Tuesday afternoon in the parlors of Wesleyan conservatory on The Contribution of the Negro to the Culture of the South.

Mrs. Quillian spoke of the contributions made in the last 75 years by Negroes to the cultural life of the nation. As examples of poetry she read Wheatley's Imagination, Dunbar's Ere Sleep Comes Down; Johnson's sonnet, Mother Night, and Alice Dunbar Nelson's sonnet, Violets.

Among Negro writers of fiction she named C. W. Chestnutt as the foremost novelist, The House Behind the Cedars being his masterpiece. His best story is The Wife of His Youth. A best seller among novels is Claude McKay's Home to Harlem, which was awarded a prize. The Sport of the Gods is Dunbar's best novel and his short stories and poems far surpass his novels. W. E. B. DuBois has written two novels The Quest of the Silver Fleece and The Dark Princess. His Souls of Black Folk, said Mrs. Quillian, is the best work in classic English yet written by a Negro.

Among Negro actors Mrs. Quillian mentioned Ira F. Aldridge, who has received decorations and medals in London, and played well the role of Othello; Charles Gilpin and Paul Robeson, who won recognition appearing in Eugene O'Neil's play, The Emperor Jones. There are 2,500 Negro actors in the United States, though no Negro has yet achieved ultimate success in the classic drama.

Mrs. Quillian stated that Henry O. Tanner is the foremost Negro painter, made famous by his scriptural painting, The Raising of Lazarus, which was bought by the French government. Albert Smith is an etcher and painter of noted Negroes. W. E. Scott is celebrated as a painter of murals for schools and public buildings. The speaker said that the Negro, as a rule, lacks feeling for landscape, although some have painted nature scenes.

Some women sculptors among the Negroes are: Edmonia Lewis, May Howard Jackson and Meta Fuller, said Mrs. Quillian.

In education the Negro has made much progress; Howard University in Washington, D. C., Fisk University in Nashville, Atlanta University and Dillard University in New Orleans being strategic college centers. Among Negro educators Mrs. Quillian discussed the late Booker T. Washington and his philosophy of life for the southern Negro; Robert R. Moton, head of Tuskeegee Institute in Alabama; G. W. Carver, professor at Tuskegee, and Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University.

Mrs. Quillian told of her visit to Tuskegee, where she saw Booker T. Washington's statue on which are the words: "He lifted the veil of ignorance from his people and pointed the way to progress through education and industry."

In the field of music, said Mrs. Quillian, the most noted Negro women singers have been Elizabeth Greenfield, called the Black Swan, whose voice has a range of more than three octaves and who has been compared to Jenny Lind, and also Lelika, whose noted Echo Song is unsurpassed. Other noted singers are Black Patti and Marian Anderson, the foremost contralto singer of her race; Harry T. Burleigh, outstanding both as a singer and as a composer; Roland Hayes, famous tenor and son of a slave whose early home was Curryville, Ga. Hayes cleared $2,000 in a single concert at Boston Symphony hall, and while in England sang before the king and queen.

Among Negro composers Mrs. Quillian mentioned Samuel Coleridge Taylor, Harry Burleigh, J. Rosamond Johnson, Carl Diton, Nathaniel Dett and the late Edmund Jenkins of Charleston, winner of many prizes. A prominent organist, Melville Charlton, of Brooklyn, is an associate member of the American Guild of Organists.

Mrs. Quillian spoke of having once heard the celebrated musical prodigies, Blind Tom and Blind Boone.

More than 1,500 patents for inventions, said the speaker, have been issued to Negroes. G. W. Carver of Tuskegee has invented 165 uses and by-products of the peanut and more than a hundred products from the sweet potato, over 60 uses and products from the pecan, and has extracted useful dyes from southern clay soils. He is the Luther Burbank of the Negro race, and is a Ph. D. graduate of the University of Iowa. Among other inventors Mrs. Quillian mentioned John Metzeliger, Granville T. Woods, Ben Banneker, inventor of the first American clock that would strike the hours; Gus Jackson, a confectioner of Philadelphia, who invented ice cream; A. B. Albert of Louisiana, inventor of a cotton picking machine; J. H. Dickinson, Ernest King, to whom the Atwater Kent Corporation pays royalty for an automatic radio control; Charles Richey.

"It is in music," said Mrs. Quillian, "that the Negro makes his greatest contribution, the spirituals and religious folk-songs being his most important contribution. The Negro national anthem, Lift Every Voice and Sing, is familiar to millions of Negroes, especially students."

GREENVILLE, TEX
EVENING BANNER

Negro Progress

In the northeast part of Greenville are to be found some of its prettiest resident lots They are owned and landscaped by negroes the progressives of the race, bettering achievement in this respect of many of the race that claims to be superior.

These citizens of Greenville have taken i upon themselves to improve their property i not only a practical way but in an aesthetic manner that lends dignity to effort.

Thus they lend to a closer understanding between the two Southern races that is not possible through clamor, patronization or claims. They ought to be commended for their effort and the rest of us ought to appreciate their desire to be good citizens rather than drags upon progress. Some of us "superiors" are the latter, you know.